

Meeting Date: November 15, 2007

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item: Wolf Population Management Plan

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Steve Nadeau

Background:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently indicated the desire to publish a delisting rule on wolves by the end of February 2008. The Department has been planning what wolf management as a big game animal will look like and how we will proceed in planning regulated wolf harvest. With assistance from a stakeholder group, a working draft Wolf Population Management Plan (Plan) was developed. The working draft Plan was delivered to the commission, the stakeholder group, OSC, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Also, a summary of a public survey conducted to help guide wolf harvest management will be discussed.

Policy issues:

There are no policy issues prior to releasing the plan for public input. This presentation will be primarily to present a summary of the major aspects of the Plan and to get direction for further public comment.

Public Involvement Process:

A stakeholder group and public survey helped develop the Plan. Further public information and involvement in our planning process will be discussed as a requested action.

Justification:

Our level of management planning and implementation has increased over the last few years, and will continue to do so. The transition to state management has been ongoing since 2002 and we are now prepared to take over management of wolves as a big game animal and to plan Idaho's wolf harvest strategies.

Action Requested:

Proceed with providing the Plan for public comment.

Staff Recommendations:

Proceed with public review and comment period to be completed by mid-December.